

"dollars for the classrooms," which is really dollars to the governors and state bureaucracies to play around with Federal money.

But when it comes to straight bulleting of money for construction, which most school boards in America realize is one of their greatest needs. They understand that they need help; they cannot get local or state dollars. Why not bring home our Federal dollars? All taxes are local. They come from the local level. They just print money here. They do not really have taxes based in Washington. It comes from the local level. Give it back to the local level, without strings attached.

This is the best deal ever for local school boards and states. It says you can have the money. You can float the bonds, and the Federal Government will pay the interest on the debt you accumulate to build classrooms. What better deal is there; or has ever been offered? The Republicans are blocking dollars to build classrooms in America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or on which the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 3 p.m. today.

EXTENDING VISA PROCESSING PERIOD FOR DIVERSITY APPLICANTS DUE TO EMBASSY BOMBINGS

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4821) to extend into fiscal year 1999 the visa processing period for diversity applicants whose visa processing was suspended during fiscal year 1998 due to embassy bombings.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4821

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION INTO FISCAL YEAR 1999 OF VISA PROCESSING PERIOD FOR DIVERSITY APPLICANTS WHOSE VISA PROCESSING WAS SUSPENDED DURING FISCAL YEAR 1998 DUE TO EMBASSY BOMBINGS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding clause (ii)(II) of section 204(a)(1)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(G)), in the case of an alien described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b)—

(A) the petition filed for classification under section 203(c) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)) for fiscal year 1998 is deemed approved for processing for fiscal year 1999, without the payment of an additional \$75 filing fee; and

(B) the priority rank for such an alien for such classification for fiscal year 1999 is the earliest priority rank established for such classification for such fiscal year.

(2) VISAS CHARGED TO FISCAL YEAR 1999.—Immigrant visas made available pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be charged to fiscal year 1999.

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS.—

(1) PETITIONING ALIEN.—An alien described in this paragraph is an alien who—

(A) had a petition approved for processing under section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)) for fiscal year 1998; and

(B) (i) had been scheduled for an immigrant visa interview on or after August 6, 1998, and before October 1, 1998, at the United States embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, at the United States embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, or at any other United States visa processing post designated by the Secretary of State as a post at which immigrant visa services were suspended in fiscal year 1998 as a result of events related to the August 7, 1998, bombing of those embassies; or

(ii) had been interviewed for such a visa but refused issuance under section 221(g) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(g)) during fiscal year 1998 at such an embassy or post.

(2) FAMILY MEMBERS.—An alien described in this paragraph is an alien who—

(A) is a family member described in section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d)) of an alien described in paragraph (1); or

(B) (i) is a family member described in such section of an alien described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(ii) meets the requirement of clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(B).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4821.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last August 7, as everyone will recall, our Nation was shaken by the news that our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed and hundreds of natives and American diplomats as well were killed.

As tragic as that is, and it still has tragic consequences in leftover items that will haunt us for years to come, there was another unintended but serious consequence of those bombings. That is, there were many people filing into those embassies prior to this bombing who were making application for diversity visas to which they might have been entitled.

Now, with the extinction of these embassies, these people, who might have a right to come to the United States to exercise their skills, were denied that privilege of applying for this diversity visa. What has happened is they may lose that chance forever, unless we pass

this piece of legislation, because what this does is in effect put a hold on the deadlines that would have ordinarily applied to these applicants for diversity visas, thus, allowing the system to move ahead into 1999, without allowing it to come to an end by the process that would have come to an end this year, but for the bombings of the embassies in those countries.

We urge the passage of this legislation as one that is absolutely necessary. This would not guarantee, by the way, that those applying would automatically be granted the visa, but we do not want to rob them of the opportunity to file an application to receive such a visa. That is the purpose of the bill, and what it does is make up for lost time by reason of the destruction of the embassies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) for his support of this legislation. I rise in support also today of H.R. 4821, a bill to extend into next year the visa processing period for Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, due to the U.S. embassy bombings.

This is one of the most heinous acts of state-sponsored terrorism that has been done anywhere in a long time. The bombs that exploded on August 7th at the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam killed 247 people in Kenya and 10 people in Tanzania and left more than 5,500 people injured, including many Americans. Sadly, on August 7th of this year, the U.S. embassies in East Africa were the target of state-sponsored terrorism backed by financier Osama Bin Laden.

Fighting terrorism is a complex and very, very difficult task, and in the aftermath of every sinister terrorist act a rebuilding process must occur to restructure buildings, send food and shelter and rehabilitate the lives of the victimized men, women and children, so I am pleased to hear that the U.S. will extend a helping hand to the innocent victims during this tragic period.

Our immigration process is oftentimes complicated, as we know. It is mired with confusion and, at many times, is discriminatory. The annual diversity visa lottery permits 50,000 applicants from countries that are underrepresented in legal immigration to qualify for a U.S. immigrant visa.

At the time of the bombings, hundreds of visa applicants were suspended because of lack of manpower to operate our counselor services. The temporary closure meant that applicants were unable to process their visas.

One story that has particular meaning to me was from a young lady named Maritee who lived in Nairobi. She had told her family she was looking forward to coming to the United States of America with her sister. She was at the U.S. embassy's consular office waiting in line filling out an application to come to her dream country,

the USA, when the truck bomb exploded, ripping out the walls of the consular section. She did not make it through the blast. She died.

When she was buried, her family with tears streaming down their eyes remembered the jubilation of her getting up that morning and going to the embassy to apply, for her dream to come to this country to study. It was not Maritee's fault, the bombs were targeted for Americans.

We cannot bring Maritee back, but we can pass a bill and show our support and sympathy for the Kenyan and Tanzanian people.

Also at this time, in concluding this portion, I would like to express my gratitude to France, Israel and South Africa for their valor, dedication and commitment. I know that Israel brought in sniffer dogs to locate missing people trapped in the rubble and debris.

South Africa responded almost immediately. They facilitated and expedited a route allowing our Air Force and the FBI to fly through South Africa to Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. They also brought back injured people, lifting visa restrictions, and sent their medical experts to care for the wounded.

Months later they had a similar bombing at the Hard Rock Cafe in Cape Town, South Africa. I know they had to work very closely with our FBI during this second attack in South Africa, and they have been very, very supportive in working closely with us.

In closing, I would like to express support for the immediate and decisive decision taken by the President. The strikes at the Shifa Pharmaceutical Plant in Khartoum and the terrorist camps in Afghanistan will help to stave off impending terrorist threats by Osama Bin Laden and his Taliban terrorist groups.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, because I think it is evidence of the great Nation of America acting in a small way to deal with a problem. It will probably be ignored and not recognized. Nobody knows it, but in very small ways we have attempted to provide as much assistance as possible to all the victims of the bombings in Kenya and elsewhere. We have taken steps to deal with the medical bills, the hardship suffered by the people surrounding the embassy and those killed in the embassy.

The whole matter has been brought home to us as members of the Congressional Black Caucus because two very close members of the Congressional Black Caucus family were involved. Consul General Julian Bartley had served as a fellow on the hill here for a half a year and worked with the Con-

gressional Black Caucus. His son, Jay Bartley, we also got to know, and his daughter, Edith Bartley, is still active in Congressional Black Caucus matters. It was brought home to us in a very personal way. But I think the important thing here is that this legislation is designed to help people we will never know. It is designed to help people that happened to be unfortunately there on that awful day.

The message that should go out to all across the world is you need never fear being a friend of America. To be an ally of America, to host an embassy in your country, there is nothing unique to fear. We will stand by our friends.

We have many enemies in the world, and for good reason. We have enemies who are seeking to maintain old systems that we are definitely against. We are against slavery in the Sudan and slavery in Mauritania. We are against the Taliban enslavement of women in Afghanistan. We are against a lot of things that create a lot of enemies.

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But we are also the most admired country in the world. People know that we will stand by our friends in every way. We stood by France a couple of centuries after they helped us in the Revolutionary War. Our troops were on the beaches of Normandy.

This is the American colossus which is unlike any empire that ever existed; not an empire, really, but we have influence all over the world. We probably have more friends and more people who admire Americans than any other Nation in the world. That is for a good reason, because we do stand by our friends. We do stand for principles and values that large numbers of people identify with.

That creates incidents. It leads to bombings, like the one in Kenya. We have retaliated, and many people are upset with the fact that we did retaliate by sending bombs into Afghanistan and then into Sudan. But if we are in a situation where terrorism is the way of the future, and there is a new form of war which can strike anybody, and you are guilty even by association, by friendship, then everybody is included. Terrorism can strike anywhere and we must strike back.

The fact that we are acting today to indicate that we recognize that innocent victims need to be compensated; innocent victims need to be recognized. This Act is addressing the fact that there were people who wanted to obtain visas and wanted to come to this country whose visas were not prosecuted in a timely way. But we have also had legislation for which I understand monies are being appropriated to deal with the expenses incurred by people who suffered hardships from this awful tragedy.

I want to salute the sponsors of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and the whole spirit of the legislation, which sends a clear message to all those nations in the world, and certainly the under-

developed Nations, which is that you need not fear, you need not back away from an alliance with America. You need not fear standing for the same kind of principles that we do. You need not fear hosting our personnel or being the home of one of our embassies. We are in a world where everybody is targeted by terrorists, and anybody at any time can be a victim. But this Nation will stand by its friends. This Nation has shown that it is ready to act in a humane manner.

In the case of Julian Bartley and his son, Jay Bartley, I think special efforts were made and a special dispensation was undertaken. Both of them were buried in Arlington Cemetery. That is the kind of gesture of a great president, of a great Nation, that is indicative of what is happening here. We are taking care of people who were victimized unnecessarily, and I wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 4821.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to pay tribute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMAR SMITH), our colleague on the Committee on the Judiciary, who supported the production, promotion, and the final passage, as we envision it, of this legislation. He has also worked hard on questions of immigration and visas for these purposes, and he deserves a lot of credit for what has occurred here, along with the inspiration of the legislation, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BEN GILMAN), who, in his position as chairman of that relevant committee, also has worked very hard to get to our final stages.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4821.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GRANTING CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 35) granting the consent of Congress to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.

Congress consents to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement entered into between the States of Alaska,